



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region VIII
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF TACLOBAN CITY
Tacloban City

October 11, 2022

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 527, s. 2022

**PROVIDING SAFE WATER SUPPLIES IN SCHOOLS AND
OTHER RELATED CONCERNS**

TO: Chief, Schools Governance and Operations Division
Public School District Supervisors
Public Secondary and Elementary School Heads
Health and Nutrition Unit Personnel
All Others Concerned

1. The safety of every learner is a prime duty of every school. Thus, a school should be a safe place for all learners, including the teachers and other school personnel. Part of making school a safe and healthy environment for all is the provision of safe water supply, which can be used for drinking and for other basic purposes. In relation to this, the Department of Education issued DO No. 10, s. 2016 which highlighted the policy objective for water, stating that *"All schools shall have an organized system to make adequate and safe drinking water as well as clean water for handwashing, toilet use, menstrual hygiene management, and cleaning purposes available to all students during school hours."*

2. In line with this, a research was conducted in the Division of Tacloban City assessing the water supplies in some randomly selected schools. Results of the water analyses showed that two (2) samples, both from rainwater source had objectionable odors. Moreover, the bacteriological analyses showed that both the rain water-sourced supply and two (2) deep well-sourced supply had greater than 8.0 MPN/mL, which was beyond the less than 1.0 MPN/mL allowable limit of the Philippine National Standards for Water (PNSWD). In short, these water sources are unsafe for drinking and for other basic uses.

3. Considering the importance of water to the learners, teachers and school personnel, and the danger that unsafe water supply poses, this Office finds it imperative to issue this Memorandum to re-emphasize DO No. 10, s.

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2016, and to direct all school authorities and other concerned personnel to implement the following recommendations:

a) All sources of water in all schools in the Division, including that of the Division Office, must be subjected to regular water analysis.

b) All schools and offices of the Division of Tacloban City must provide warning signs on water sources which are not potable, and must provide specific information as to which purposes can the water be used only.

c) Considering that water is a necessity, especially drinking water, schools and offices must provide safe drinking water supply to the school personnel using MOOE or other applicable funds.

d) Class advisers through the Homeroom PTA may consider providing drinking water for the learners through voluntary contributions or donations from members of the HPTA and other stakeholders; or from the MOOE if funds warrant. In case of the former, the HPTA, through the elected officials, must agree. The agreement must be substantiated with a resolution or minutes of meeting. Another option is to ask the learners to bring their own drinking water.

e) For the schools which were found and will be found to have "unsafe" water sources, the following are recommended: seek for other sources of water, and/or conduct water treatment of the current source.

4. All Division Monitors from the CID and SGOD, especially the HNU Unit, are tasked to include in the monitoring the extent of implementation of this Order.

5. For wide dissemination and strict compliance of all concerned.


MARIZA S. MAGAN, EdD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

References:

1. DO No. 10, s. 2016
2. Eder, N.; Estoque, E. & Quiban, M.D. (2022). "*Physicochemical and Microbiological Analyses of Water Supply in Selected Public Schools of Tacloban City.*" BERF-Funded Research of the Division of Tacloban City.

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:

LEARNERS' SAFETY

SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

INTERVENTION MEASURES